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FLOOR DEBATE

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The Legislature has instituted that and it's our responsibility to pay for the appeals that go to district court for that. For three years, the Attorney General did those appeals in district court under a grant from the federal government. That grant went away. The Attorney General had turned that over to county attorneys and the county attorneys saw it as a burden and at least some of them have called to be paid for that. There was a court case that said that attorney gen...that was not a part of the attorney...of the county attorneys' duties so that they should be reimbursed. Thus, we have 42 claims on ALRs this year. As of this point, it's only March, we have 35 for this next year on the books. We put in a bill, LB 1041, to the Appropriations Committee to assign these ALRs to the Attorney General's Office. That wasn't advanced but I'll be back next year to do that. I think that it's...if we're going to have ALRs we need to make sure that it follows the track where the state is responsible all the way through. With that, that's my opening for the committee amendments in the bill.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: We're now debating the adoption of the committee amendment. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, members of the Legislature, Senator Connealy, if I could ask you a few questions.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I want to direct your attention towards these, how many, twenty-some, thirty-some claims in here from county attorneys relating to these appeal fees.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Forty-two.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Forty-two, okay. First of all, just to talk about the scale of a problem, I'd like to get your understanding of the scale of the problem. We have 42 claims here so far that cumulatively are about how much money?

SENATOR CONNEALY: It's \$14,000, about.